

# The bootleggers and dairy farms of 1930s Seaside

Taking a look at Seaside in the early 1930s, our town was a busy, bustling coastal town. Population and students in attendance at local schools was still low, with approximately 17-22 seniors in the graduating class each year.

The West Dairy of Seaside started making its own butter in the 1930s and won an award at the state fair for the quality of their butter. A score of 93 was achieved which is typically the highest marks commercial butter receives unless "particular effort is made" to achieve an award. The butter judged was part of a normal run for the dairy.

The local dancing club was aptly named the Sand Fleas. The group formed as a winter club which typically met at the Seaside Hotel each week for dancing parties.

Fake news was a problem even back in the 1930s, according to a local farmer who printed a rebuttal to several stories posted in Portland and Astoria papers about his being "dumped in the middle of muddy

**BETWEEN THE COVERS**  
ESTHER MOBERG



creek while in the act of tying a bull elk to a tree." The farmer wrote in the Seaside Signal that he had never tried to tie up an elk. The bull in question being tied up was in fact of the bovine (cow) variety and while it did result in his being tossed into Muddy Creek, only minor injuries resulted, to those "areas of the body that are often attractive to bulls — especially when said person is running away."

December of 1931 the sea was wild enough to come up over the prom wall, carrying with it small logs, some of which damaged houses. One man broke his leg when he became trapped between a log and his house's retaining wall that was located just past the prom. Logs were also strewn across the road near the Cove. The combination of a mid-level

tide (waves reaching 6 feet 8 inches), and a big storm, created flooding throughout the area including the Jeffers Gardens area of Astoria and the road near Fort Clatsop. Most people who were out watching the waves crash over the prom got a thorough ducking. One man had just finished laughing about the warnings, when he was submerged by a large wave, which carried him into the doorway of the Moon Gate. The newspaper description doesn't say if the Moon Gate was a local house or business.

February of 1932, during the time of Prohibition, a group of Prohibition agents had received a tip and were waiting on shore, near the Seaside Cove, for a shipment of illegal alcohol to land. Rumor had it a Canadian ship running alcohol would be making for shore near the Cove. However, the ship, due to bad weather, went further down the coast to Whale Cove near Newport. Another party of men who were waiting to receive the goods left Seaside hurriedly when word arrived the shipment went

aground further down the coast and had caught on fire. Apparently the people loading the ship with alcohol at Whale Cove also loaded it with jars of gasoline which then caught fire, burning the ship to the ground. The crates of alcohol were buried in the sand and found later by the authorities. Three men of the liquor ship runner crew were arrested in Portland while taking a stage back to Vancouver, B.C.

Autogyros were a thing of wonder and amazement in the 1930s and a Pitcairn autogyro was demonstrated right here in Seaside in May 1931. Autogyros were developed to fly safely at low speeds, invented in the 1920s and popular in the 1930s. Autogyros were quickly replaced by helicopters once they were made more stable and safe, but at their heyday in the 1930s autogyros were used by large newspapers and even by the U.S. postal service. Even Amelia Earhart used an autogyro in the Midwest to set an altitude record in 1931. Back in the 1930s an autogyro

looked like a cross between a plane and a helicopter with a small airplane body and a helicopter's blades.

The Seaside Public Library was briefly closed in the 1930s. Issues arose regarding forming a library board. Concerns by the mayor were raised that an independent library board would demand more and more funding, raising the taxes of the city.

For the first time in 1931, the movie theater the Strand started to use equipment which would transmit sound directly from the film being played. Previously, discs would play the soundtrack separately from the film, and unless timed perfectly, could easily get out of sync with the picture.

I know Seaside residents often talk about the good old days in Seaside, often referring to around the early 1970s and 1980s but truly Seaside seems to have had many good old days over the past century, with many things to keep Seaside a busy and interesting place for visitors and residents alike.

## Astoria Sunday Market features new vendors

Now in its 18th season, Astoria Sunday Market runs through Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., on 12th Street in the historic downtown hub. Featured artist Bill W. Dodge provided the artwork for this year's poster promoting Astoria

Sunday Market.

There are currently 170 vendor applications for the upcoming season with more arriving every day. New vendors include Goosepoint Oysters, Pacific Crab Company and Rawk Stars with their

probiotic kefir water. Also, new this year is The Beautiful Pig, offering European style dry cured salamis and meats.

Astoria Sunday Market was founded in 2000 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to revitalizing historic

downtown Astoria and supporting artists, farmers and other small producers and businesses. For more information about the market and its upcoming music schedule visit [www.AstoriaSundayMarket.com](http://www.AstoriaSundayMarket.com).

### LETTERS

#### Letters from Page 4A

Per Cameron Moore, Clatsop County Manager, "a person must have a valid Oregon driver's license with an address in the county. If they do not have an Oregon driver's license they can provide the last four digits of their social security number and a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or other government documents that show their name and address which must match the residence or mailing address submitted on their voter registration card.

- A person's residence must be the place in which habitation is fixed and to which, when a person is absent, the person intends to return. Some factors to consider in determining residence include:

- Where a person receives personal mail
- Where a person is licensed to drive
- Where any immediate family members of the person reside
- The address from which the person pays for utility services
- The address from which the person files federal or state income tax returns
- A county elections official may inquire at any time into the validity of the registration of any elector.

Harold T. Gable, DMD  
Gearhart

#### 'Toxic highway'

The Daily Astorian ran an editorial on June 26, "Chemical plant fails the sniff test," about the perils of using our beautiful Columbia River to haul hazardous chemicals, such as methanol, from the proposed plant upriver in Kalamia, Washington. On July 6, the Astorian ran an editorial on shipping oil on the Columbia, "Oil-by-rail project carries too

much risk." Thank you to the Astorian for spotlighting these issues.

On July 7, an oil tanker ran aground near Skomokawa, Washington, carrying millions of gallons of witches' brew including ethanol, glycol and oil. Fortunately this did not result in catastrophe since none of the cargo leaked into the river.

Think this an unusual occurrence? Think again. In the last year there have been four other groundings on this stretch of the lower river. Luckily, no environmental harm was reported for any of these cases. How much longer will our luck hold?

It is time we call a halt to these disastrous proposals upstream which use the Columbia as a "toxic highway" to transport products overseas. Our global economy promotes the depletion of our natural resources to the highest bidder, driving up prices for Americans and endangering our environment — including the river which offers us a livelihood — just to fill the pockets of others.

The Columbia is much more valuable than to serve as a "highway" of hazardous products.

John Green  
Gearhart

#### Letter: Too much congestion

Dear City of Seaside. You have a heart problem. Your arteries are clogged and you need a bypass.

I know this issue has come up in the past and the consensus was that if Seaside had a bypass that people may not stop to shop. Well... people are stopped for sure. In fact, they are dead stopped on 101 going both directions most days and certainly on weekends. They are able to pick up an order of Grizzly Tuna or a

coffee from Human Bean or shop at Nike outlet that is how slow the traffic moves. There are more travelers on the road than in previous years and it is only going to get worse, not just here but everywhere.

The local businesses are the losers because local residents stay home to avoid the traffic and it is becoming increasingly difficult just to go to the grocery store.

Those vehicles that are waiting to move through Seaside are not going to veer off and lose their place in line and most are wondering if there has been an accident as there is no signage that tells them why traffic is congested. Travel time from Gearhart to Highway 26 Junction can take up to 45 minutes.

As a business owner, it has made it almost impossible for me to accommodate my customers with deliveries of wedding cakes from my shop in Cannon Beach traveling north and is affecting my bottom line. I now have been forced to redesign my business plan and re-evaluate my customer service.

The issue of a bypass around Seaside needs to be made a priority sooner rather than later.

Jaе Young  
Gearhart

#### Whose quality of life?

The supporters of David Townsend's initiative to repeal Gearhart's existing short-term rental ordinance and replace it with their own version claim in their recent mailer it is necessary "to maintain the quality of life for our city."

Whose quality of life is maintained by allowing an unlimited number of vacation rentals in residential neighborhoods throughout the city? Whose quality of life is

maintained by allowing nine people over 12, plus an unlimited number of children under 12 in a three-bedroom house?

Whose quality of life is maintained by not requiring rental owners to provide on-site parking to help alleviate parking congestion on narrow city streets?

Whose quality of life is maintained by not requiring rental owners to demonstrate that they have a functional septic system capable of handling sporadic use by large numbers of occupants?

Whose quality of life is maintained if overworked septic systems fail at an ever-increasing number of rental units lead the Department of Environmental Quality to mandate a citywide sewage system that, over time, will be paid for by all property owners?

Whose quality of life is maintained by not requiring rentals to be inspected by the local building official, the only inspector permitted by law to evaluate life safety conditions?

Whose quality of life is maintained by not requiring rental owners to provide for the trash created by their guests over a weekend to be safely stored until trash pick-up day?

It seems that the only people whose quality of life will be maintained are the out-of-town investment property owners behind this initiative. The don't seem to realize that degrading the overall quality of life in Gearhart will eventually degrade their own properties, as well as the rest of the town's.

I urge the council to reject the initiative, place it on the ballot and allow the voters of Gearhart to vote it down in November.

Dianne Widdop  
Gearhart

### MEETINGS

**Monday, July 24**  
Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

**Tuesday, July 25**  
Seaside Airport Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Tuesday, Aug. 1**  
Seaside Community and Senior Commission, 10 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A.

**Seaside Library Board**, 4:30 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway.

**Seaside Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Wednesday, Aug. 2**  
Seaside Improvement Commission, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Gearhart City Council**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

**Thursday, Aug. 3**  
Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Thursday, Aug. 10**  
Seaside Convention Center Commission, 5 p.m., Seaside Civic and Convention Center, 415 First Avenue.

**Monday, Aug. 14**  
Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Monday, Aug. 28**  
Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Tuesday, Sept. 5**  
Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Wednesday, Sept. 6**  
Gearhart City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

**Monday, Sept. 11**  
Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Monday, Sept. 25**  
Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

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